

## OPINION 1865

***Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 (Tunicata): given precedence over *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907**

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Tunicata; Ascidiacea; *Eudistoma*; *Paessleria*.

**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary powers the generic name *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 is hereby given precedence over *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Michaelsen (1930) *Distoma rubrum* Savigny, 1816, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907 (gender: feminine), type species by monotypy *Paessleria magalhaensis* Michaelsen, 1907, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 whenever the two names are considered to be synonyms.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *rubrum* Savigny, 1816, as published in the binomen *Distoma rubrum* (specific name of the type species of *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909);
  - (b) *magalhaensis* Michaelsen, 1907, as published in the binomen *Paessleria magalhaensis* (specific name of the type species of *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907).

**History of Case 2933**

An application to conserve the generic name *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909 by giving it precedence over *Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907 was received from Dr Patricia Kott (Queensland Museum, South Brisbane, Queensland, Australia) on 30 March 1994. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 52: 254–256 (September 1995). Notice of the case was sent to appropriate journals.

Gaertner (in Pallas, 1774, p. 40) introduced the new genus *Distomus* (now included in the STYELIDAE, Stolidobranchia) with the single included species *D. variolosus* Gaertner, 1774, which is the type by monotypy. Savigny (1816) referred to Gaertner's genus and species, added the new species *rubrum*, and at the same time (p. 176) used '*Distoma*' without explaining the change of spelling. As an incorrect subsequent spelling *Distoma* is not an available name (Article 33c of the Code; cf. para. 1 of the application). The change in spelling from *Distomus* to *Distoma* was followed by Caullery (1909) and Michaelsen (1930). This does not affect the ruling on *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909.

**Gaertner, J.** 1774. Zoophyta quaedam minuta. Pp. 34–41 in Pallas, P.S., *Spicilegium Zoologica*, part 10.

### Decision of the Commission

On 16 September 1996 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 52: 255. At the close of the voting period on 16 December 1996 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 21: Bock, Brothers, Cocks, Cogger, Eschmeyer, Heppell, Kabata, Kerzhner, Kraus, Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Mawatari, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Papp, Patterson, Savage, Schuster, Song

Negative votes — 3: Dupuis, Lehtinen and Štys.

Bouchet abstained.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Abstaining, Bouchet commented: 'The case for maintaining the current usage of *Eudistoma* is well founded and I approve the intention of the application. However, I disapprove of the procedure of giving precedence to a junior name. Retention of the name *Paessleria* serves no practical purpose and I would have preferred that it be suppressed'. Voting against, Dupuis commented that in his view the case related to a taxonomic, rather than a nomenclatural, problem. Lehtinen commented: 'The name *Eudistoma* was invalidly proposed and lack of use of *Paessleria* seems to be due mainly to little work in the original area (the Straits of Magellan). There are no reasons for giving precedence to the junior name'.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

*Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909, *Bulletin Scientifique de la France et de la Belgique*, 42: 44.

*magalhaensis*, *Paessleria*, Michaelsen, 1907, *Ergebnisse der Hamburger Magalhaensischen Sammelreise*, 8(5): 69.

*Paessleria* Michaelsen, 1907, *Ergebnisse der Hamburger Magalhaensischen Sammelreise*, 8(5): 68.

*rubrum*, *Distoma* (recte *Distomus*), Savigny, 1816, *Mémoires sur les animaux sans vertèbres*, part 2, p. 177.

The following is the reference for the designation of '*Distoma*' *rubrum* Savigny, 1816 as the type species of the nominal genus *Eudistoma* Caullery, 1909:

Michaelsen, W. 1930. *Die Fauna Südwest-Australiens*, 5(7): 489.